

Message Text

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22

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-07

NSC-05 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 COME-00 FRB-01 XMB-04 OPIC-06

LAB-04 SIL-01 /117 W

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R 291420Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2555

INFO USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS CAIRO 5811

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ECON ETRA EG UR

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED IN MOSCOW

REF: (A) CAIRO 3500, PARA 5.B (NOTAL) (B) CAIRO 4363 (NOTAL),

1. CAIRO PRESS HAS REPORTED SIGNING IN MOSCOW

APRIL 28 OF 1976 EGYPTIAN/SOVIET TRADE AGREEMENT. AGREEMENT

SIGNED BY MINISTER OF TRADE/SUPPLY ZAKARIYA TEWFIQ

ABD AL-FATTAH AND NIKOLAI S. PATOLICHEV SOVIET

MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE. GOODS TO BE IMPORTED BY

EGYPT FROM USSR UNDER 1976 AGREEMENT REPORTEDLY

INCLUDE TIMBER (350,000 TONS), NEWSPRINT AND CARDBOARD

(250,000 TONS), MACHINERY AND SPARE PARTS (LE 38 MILLION),

FERTILIZERS (35,000 TONS), FRESH FISH (30,000 TONS), PETROLEUM

PRODUCTS, COOKING FATS, DRIED AND CANNED MILK, COAL, PAPER PULP,

TIRES AND TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT. EGYPT WILL

EXPORT TO USSR RAW COTTON (150,000 BALES), COTTON

YARN (15,000 TONS), COTTON TEXTILES (LE 30 MILLION),

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CRUDE OIL (150,000 TONS), ONIONS AND GARLIC

(40,000 TONS), RICE (45,000 TONS), CITRUS FRUITS (100,000 TONS), LEATHER GOODS (LE 7 MILLION), ALCHOLIC DRINKS (LE 7 MILLION), PERFUME, PERFUME OIL AND COSMETICS (LE 19.5 MILLION), AND FURNITURE (LE 5 MILLION). TOTAL VALUE OF TRADE WILL BE LE 320 MILLION, OF WHICH IMPORTS FROM USSR WILL BE LE 125 MILLION, AND EXPORTS TO USSR WILL BE LE 196 MILLION.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, IN REMARKS FOLLOWING SIGNING CEREMONY, SOVIET MINISTER EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT TRADE BETWEEN EGYPT AND USSR IS IMPORTANT "IN SPITE OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS". HE SAID THAT BOTH PARTIES HAD HAD A LONG ASSOCIATION AND THAT HIGH DEGREE OF UNDERSTANDING HAD PREVAILED IN BILATERAL TALKS. EGYPTIAN MINISTER REPORTEDLY MADE PITCH FOR CONCLUSION OF LONG-TERM TRADE ACCORD BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES, ADDING THAT SIGNING OF AGREEMENT WAS CONTINUATION OF BILATERAL COOPERATION WHICH MUST BE BASED ON MUTUAL CONFIDENCE. SENIOR SOVIET TRADE OFFICIAL WILL VISIT CAIRO NEXT OCTOBER TO NEGOTIATE LONGER AGREEMENT FOR 1977-80.

3. BASED ON EGYPTIAN STATISTICS, CONTENTS OF TRADE AGREEMENT IS UNREMARKABLE. ITEMS MENTIONED HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN COMPONENTS OF EGYPTIAN/SOVIET TRADE. WE FIND NO SPECIFIC MENTION OF FURNITURE EXPORTS TO USSR BUT THIS MAY ONLY BE OMISSION IN EGYPTIAN PRESS. AMOUNTS ARE LIKEWISE CONSISTENT WITH TREND OF TRADE IN RECENT YEARS.
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